WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MAY 2005

WIP's 15 year anniversary!

As we celebrate, let's rejuvenate the sense of mission and community that gave birth to this newspaper

by Sandy Mayes

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed." - WIP Mission Statement

Early one morning, fifteen years ago this month, two or three carloads of budding media activists - eagerly anticipating the delivery of their brand new baby - headed north. They traveled from Olympia to the print shop in Shelton in order to be there together as the first issue of Works In Progress rolled off the press.

These founders of Works In Progress came together in 1990, under the umbrella of the Rainbow Coalition, to establish a free community newspaper that would counter the influence of the local Gannett-owned paper, the Olympian. In an early pamphlet, they wrote, "It is a philosophy of WIP that no one can do a better job writing about an issue than those who are directly affected". They also asserted that there is no such thing as "unbiased" journalism.

Listening now to these WIPsters of yore as they reminisce about those heady Golden Days, inspires a desire to rekindle the burning sense of purpose and adventure that first spawned this little newspaper, and evokes a deep appreciation for its longevity and enduring mission.

The fifteen year anniversary of Works In Progress is the perfect time to renew the sense of mission and the collective sense of ownership, responsibility, and community collaboration that gave birth to this newspaper.

Fifteen years and counting

Throughout its fifteen years, Works In Progress has provided a forum for voices and views often ignored or misrepresented by Big Media. WIP has undoubtedly played a role in affecting outcomes with local issues such as anti-homeless ordinances, the Fleetwood low-income housing project, police abuses of power, the recent defeat of measures such as the convention center and the county jail, and numerous local elections.

Fifteen years is an exceptionally long run for a paper of this kind – and we're still in the game. Yet, although WIP has always been a collaboration between the community and the collective, it is safe, and a little sad, to say that WIP's longevity thus far has been due primarily to the perseverance of one particular individual.

The glow of the paper's early days had begun to fade. The Rainbow Coalition and its financial support to the paper eventually came to an end. Over the years, the collective dwindled. Going to press every month gradually depended on fewer and fewer people doing more and more of the work. Eventually, the burden of responsibility for the bulk of the work came to rest on one set of shoulders, and remained there for far too long. Although it was never his intent or desire, the survival of what began as a collaborative project became completely dependent on the efforts of one person: Pat Tassoni.

A little over two years ago, WIP came to a crossroads. Pat - a key member of the WIPworker collective from the beginning - could no longer serve in the capacity that he had for so many years. A call went out to the community and a few of us pulled together to cover the many bases that would be vacated. Although Pat continues to manage our finances and provide ongoing technical support, his workload at WIP has been significantly diminished, freeing him up to spend more time on other worthwhile community projects. The work of producing and distributing WIP is now a little more evenly divided, but there are still way too few of us doing way too much work.

("Celebrate 15 years" cont. on page 5)

Is Iran the next target in the administration's sights?

An OMJP sponsored article

by Alice Zillah

www.omjp.org

At the Support the Truth event on February 18, former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter told an Olympia audience that the Bush administration had reviewed plans in October 2004 to attack Iran in June of 2005. "The Pentagon was told to be prepared to launch a massive aerial attack against Iran, Iraq's neighbor to the east, in order to destroy the Iranian nuclear program."

Only the independent media covered this bombshell. Last month Ritter wrote, "It was curious that no one in the American media took it upon themselves to confront the President or his Secretary of State about the June 2005 date, or for that matter the October 2004 review by the President of military plans to attack Iran in June 2005."

The nuclear issue is a smokescreen. The Bush administration has its eyes on Iran because of the huge reserves of oil and natural gas that Iran possesses, and the fact that Iran is selling oil and gas to India and China, our primary competitors in the global struggle over energy.

But despite the silence in the corporate press about a possible attack, there are ominous signs that Ritter's prediction might prove correct – unless we mobilize to stop another preemptive war.

Some signs of plans for an attack include:

- In late March three warships with 6,300 sailors and Marines were deployed to the Persian Gulf. Fighter jets from one of the ships, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, conducted trial bombing runs before deployment.

- The London Times revealed that the Israeli government has prepared secret plans for a combined air and ground attack on targets in Iran if "diplomacy fails to halt the Iranian nuclear program". In the Haaretz newspaper, Israel Air Force Commander Eliezer Shakedi implied that Israel would have help, presumably from the US, if it went ahead with these plans.

- On April 19, New York Post columnist Cindy Adams wrote that Henry Kissinger told her, "It's a foregone conclusion that we will also go to war in Iran."

- Commentator Charles Goyette says, "That the US might attack Iran in June is one of our worst-kept secrets."

It's important to note that under international law, it is illegal to plot preemptive war. In his opening statement at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945, Justice Jackson said, "To plan, prepare, initiate, or wage a war of aggression, or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements, and assurances, or to conspire or participate in a common plan to do so, is a crime. . . . No political, military, economic, or other considerations shall serve as an excuse or justification for such actions."

The Bush administration has begun the by-now-familiar song and dance about Iran: Iran has a secret weapons program, ties to Al Qaeda, and represents a threat to the US. It's remarkable that they think anyone will take these allegations seriously, given that just last month an official US Presidential Commission report stated that virtually every intelligence

("Target Iran" continued on page 4)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to ***wip@zhonka.net*** or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	David Lavender
Chelsea Chase	Sandy Mayes
Sebastian Chase	hali panneton
Renee Cruickshank	Megan Selvage
Christian DesMarets	Sylvia Smith
DrewHendricks	Jeff Sowers
Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover: 1991 photo taken by founding WIP worker, Kendra Jennings.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

May 20

PO Box 295, Olympia WA 98507

wip@zhonka.net * www.olywa.net/wip

Advertising Info

WIP Ads

705-1971

Inch Rate $9.00
Business Card $35.00*
5" X 5" $144.00
4 Months for the price of 3
Special Non-Profit Rates

Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 15 Years

Subscriptions:

O **Individual … $35**

O **Low-Income …$15**

O **Please do not mail, I'll pick it up!**

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

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City **State** **Zip** _____

Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Announcements, etc.

The Evergreen State College Hosts
World-Renowned Arab Women Writers in Olympia
as part of month-long Series of Public Events

Evergreen will host three award-winning Arab women writers on **May 6, 2005, at United Churches, Olympia, at 7 pm**. This public event is part of a series on "Women Writers of the Arab World," organized by Hedgebrook, a non-profit organization inspiring women to author change, in partnership with the Arab American Community Coalition (Seattle). This first-of-its-kind month-long series of public events will feature some of the most exciting Arab women writing today. For a full list of Seattle Area events, go to **www.hedgebrook.org**.

The authors speaking in Olympia include the following:

Raja Alem (Saudi Arabia) is one of the most popular contemporary Arabic writers of novels, plays and poetry. In *Fatma: A Novel of Arabia*, Alem explores themes of patriarchy and gender roles through a blend of myth and modern life, creating stories that transcend the so-called "clash of civilizations."

Suheir Hammad (Palestine/US) is best known for her renderings of her own hip-hop poetry in the Tony award-winning *Def Poetry Jam*. Her books *Born Palestinian, Born Black* and *Drops of This Story* have received critical acclaim.

Ibtihal Salem (Egypt) is celebrated for her study of everyday life in Egypt and her literary experimentation. Her collection, *Children of the Waters*, is lauded for its poignant, poetic look at the economic inequalities that result from neo-colonialism and their impact on women's lives.

The event will be moderated by Evergreen State College Faculty member, Therese Saliba, who is currently teaching a program on Arab & Muslim Women Writers and is a member of the Selection Committee for the series.

Hedgebrook's Women Writers of the Arab World will provide access to the insights of writers who might not be heard here otherwise, as well as a context for intercultural education, dialogue, and enhanced understanding

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Spring Networking Picnic
Monday May 30
Will Bring Local Progressives Together

The Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) invites all politically progressive folks in Thurston County to gather for a day of fun, networking and free food on **Monday May 30**, the **Memorial Day** holiday. This joyous and movement-building event will run **from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Tumwater Historical Park**.

The picnic will attract people who want peace, a healthy environment, human rights, alternative economics, electoral reform, and a great many other progressive goals. You will enjoy meeting old and new friends – both within the issues you care about and across the various issues – and strengthen the local progressive movement overall.

Come early and stay late! Music, games, and other fun are planned for various times throughout the day – interspersed with special features to stimulate productive activism. It will be great!

And the food! Unlike picnics where you must bring your own, TC Pro-Net is providing a variety of delicious foods for you! The 12:30 lunch will be followed by snacks throughout the rest of the day.

This will be TC Pro-Net's first major public event, so it will include a "ribbon-cutting" feature and information about how you can interact with this growing network of local progressive activists. You can learn more about the Thurston County Progressive Network and how to use the services offered at our website, **www.tcpronet.org**

To stimulate new networking opportunities, TC Pro-Net's picnic will feature some optional "TC Quick-Nets" – short sessions (30 minutes or less) where you and other folks can network to jump-start some hot issues where more networking and energy can stimulate new activism. A dozen "TC Quick-Nets" are scheduled (3 at a time in 4 30-minute blocks) in early afternoon. Local activist energies will stimulate even more, so you can create your own *ad hoc* "TC Quick-Net" for 5:30 p.m. and invite others to join you. For information about these contact Sherri Goulet at 352-8225 shardon@comcast.net

Additional music and games are planned for 4:00. If your group would like to present a talent show act, skit, or song, contact Christian Fromuth at 956-1410 christian@aguatierra.net

A special event is being planned for 11:30 a.m., but the guests are not confirmed at press time, so watch for additional publicity.

Bring smiles, good spirits, lawn chairs, musical instruments – and a few carpoolers to conserve oil. To keep this pleasant for everyone, please leave dogs at home.

For information about the picnic contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

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May 2005

We are what we didn't eat

(according to a study by the University of Southern California)

Children who were malnourished at age three:

- **showed 41% increase in aggression or hyperactivity at age 8;**
- **10% increase in aggression and delinquency at age 11, and;**
- **51% increase in violence and antisocial behavior at age 17.**

The greater the degree of malnutrition, the greater the increase of antisocial behavior.

Poor nutrition, specifically w/ deficiencies in zinc, iron, vitamin B and protein, hinders brain development and leads to low IQ. Regardless of social class (shown not to be a factor of significance), low intelligence was a major influence in antisocial behavior.

Sources: University Health Clinic Specialty Care & Research Center; American Psychiatric Association; University of S California

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2004: Justice Department report says it conducted 100s more secret searches in United States last year under the Patriot Act	**2** 2003: WA asks for injunction to prevent DOE sending radioactive waste to Hanford 2004: US death toll in Iraq: 753	**3** 1913: NYC: 10,000 in suffrage parade 2004: 70% reported more harassment, violence, discrimination of Muslims in 2003	**4** 2004: Justice Dept says Fed prison officials fail to adequately screen Muslim chaplains as well as Muslim contractors and volunteers	**5** 2003: 100s chant "death to Bush" in Kabul Afghanistan 2004: White House asks $25 billion more for Iraq/Afghanistan	**6** 2004: FBI arrests Portland lawyer Brandon Mayfield in deadly Spain train bombings 2004: Bush urges Israel return land from 1967	**7** 2004: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says there are more prisoner abuse photos that are worse: "blatantly sadistic"
8 2003: Judge dismisses lawsuit against IN's same-sex union ban 2003: United States pushes UN to take action against Iran	**9** 1998: World watch Institute releases report stating "The world today is economically richer and environmentally poorer than ever"	**10** 2003: WA state legislature passes mercury pollution reduction bill 2004: Red Cross reports 90% of Iraqi detainees arrested in error	**11** 2004: Due to the past 10 years of tough-on-crime initiatives, one out of eleven state and federal inmates serving life terms	**12** 2003: British government report reveals 20,000 brains removed by doctors and morticians from 1970-1999 w/o family consent	**13** 2003: US trade deficit jumped $43.5 billion in March 2003: Walmart's earnings rose 14% in the first quarter	**14** 2004: Supreme Court won't block Massachusetts gay marriages 2004: C Powell says US would leave if Iraqi gov requested it
15 2003: United States Senate okays $350 billion tax cut 2003: Israeli tanks roll into Gaza, killing 5 Palestinians	**16** 1998: NAACP takes stand against WA state's I-200 2004: Party thrown to celebrate opening of the 4th Avenue bridge	**17** 2004: Larry Mosqueda asks Thurston County Commissioners to and port commissioners to cancel visit by USS Olympia	**18** 2004: Wolfowitz admits Pentagon underestimated enemy in Iraq 2004: Bush urges Palestinians to reject violence and failed leaders	**19** 2004: Forty Iraqis were killed in Baghdad; US said it fired on fighters, and the Iraqis say it was a wedding party	**20** 2004: Feds release Portland lawyer in Madrid bombing; fingerprints on the plastic bag found near the bombing site weren't his after all	**21** 2004: Washington Post reports many Americans, especially African-Americans, may have vitamin D deficiency
22 1961: US A.G. sends 200 more marshals to Montgomery 1995: The US Supreme Court strikes down term limits	**23** 2004: Video shows that US did attack wedding 2004: Israeli Cabinet minister says Israeli Gaza offensive reminiscent of Holocaust	**24** 1861: Maj. Gen. Butler calls slaves "contraband of war" 2004: Bush reaffirms turning Iraq from chaos to democracy	**25** 2000: US Surgeon General announces dental disease more common among poor, minorities because of lack of health care	**26** 2004: Bush administration says it's considering easing environmental requirements for gasoline blends/permits for new refineries	**27** 2004: Twister tears the roof off a barn near Tenino 2004: One in every seventy-five U.S. men are incarcerated	**28** 2003: Honduras suspends AT&T use of the country's phone lines due to $25 million owed in rental fees since 1982
29 2003: W/o bidding, Halliburton receives $425 contract for work in Iraq from Pentagon 2004: Pat Tillman was killed by friendly fire	**30** 2003: CA Dept of Conservation reports 1 billion water bottles a year is clogging up landfills 2004: 50% of US casualties from small towns	**31** 2003: Report names US as having the largest percentage of citizenry imprisoned 2004: Monorail train in Seattle catches fire	**A Norwegian research organization found acute malnutrion had risen from 4% to 7.7% in young children the first 18 months of the US occupation of Iraq. According the institute's deputy managing director, "It's in the level of some African countries."**			

Low Income Groups Protest State Budget

by Eric Tompkins

Olympia, WA — 4/21/05 — Seven sheet shrouded bodies laid on the ground while a trio of state patrol officers stood by waiting to act. Cardboard tombstones recorded the reasons for those that passed. Symbolizing victims whose deaths were caused by state cuts to programs for low income people, activists participated in a "Die In" on wednesday, April 13th, on the state capital campus.

The Washington state legislature is presently preparing its biennial budget. Low income people will be profoundly affected by Washington state's fiscal plan. A $3 copayment for Medicaid recipient prescriptions, $1 copay for Medicaid recipient transportation to medical appointments, cuts to G.A.U. (General Assistance for the Unemployable), and no cost of living increase for 12 years to T.A.N.F. recipients (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) are current state budget plans. The G.A.U. grant is a small stipend for those unable to work at only $339 a month. Medicaid recipients with multiple prescriptions or appointments will be forced to decide which medications they can afford and which medical trips they can pay for. The "Die In", directed at state legislators, demonstrated the lethal consequences of cutting social services. A coalition of low income groups, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC), Real Change, and the Statewide Poverty Action Network, loudly voiced their opposition to the proposed budget.

The "Die In" was a culmination of direct actions to raise legislator consciousness regarding issues of low income people. The action lasted for over two hours with chants of "Stop the War! On the Poor!" and "What Do We Want? Basic Needs! When Do We Want Them? NOW!" Reactions from legislators ranged from open support to hostility as some activists approached them asking for solutions. An unidentified state congressman replied, "They should get a job," when told of cuts to G.A.U. and walked away quickly when informed that it is a grant for disabled people who cannot work.

A state budget balanced on the backs of low income people is unjust. To contact your state legislator and the governor, call 1-800-562-6000 to leave a message opposing $3 copays for medicaid recipient prescriptions and the $1 transportation fee to medical appointments. For information about volunteering at WROC call (360) 352-9716 or e-mail wrocoly@wroc.org.

photo by Eric Tompkins

Target Iran

(Continued from page one)

report on Iraq during the build-up to war was "dead wrong." But the Bush administration apparently thinks that it can launch another preemptive attack for made-up reasons.

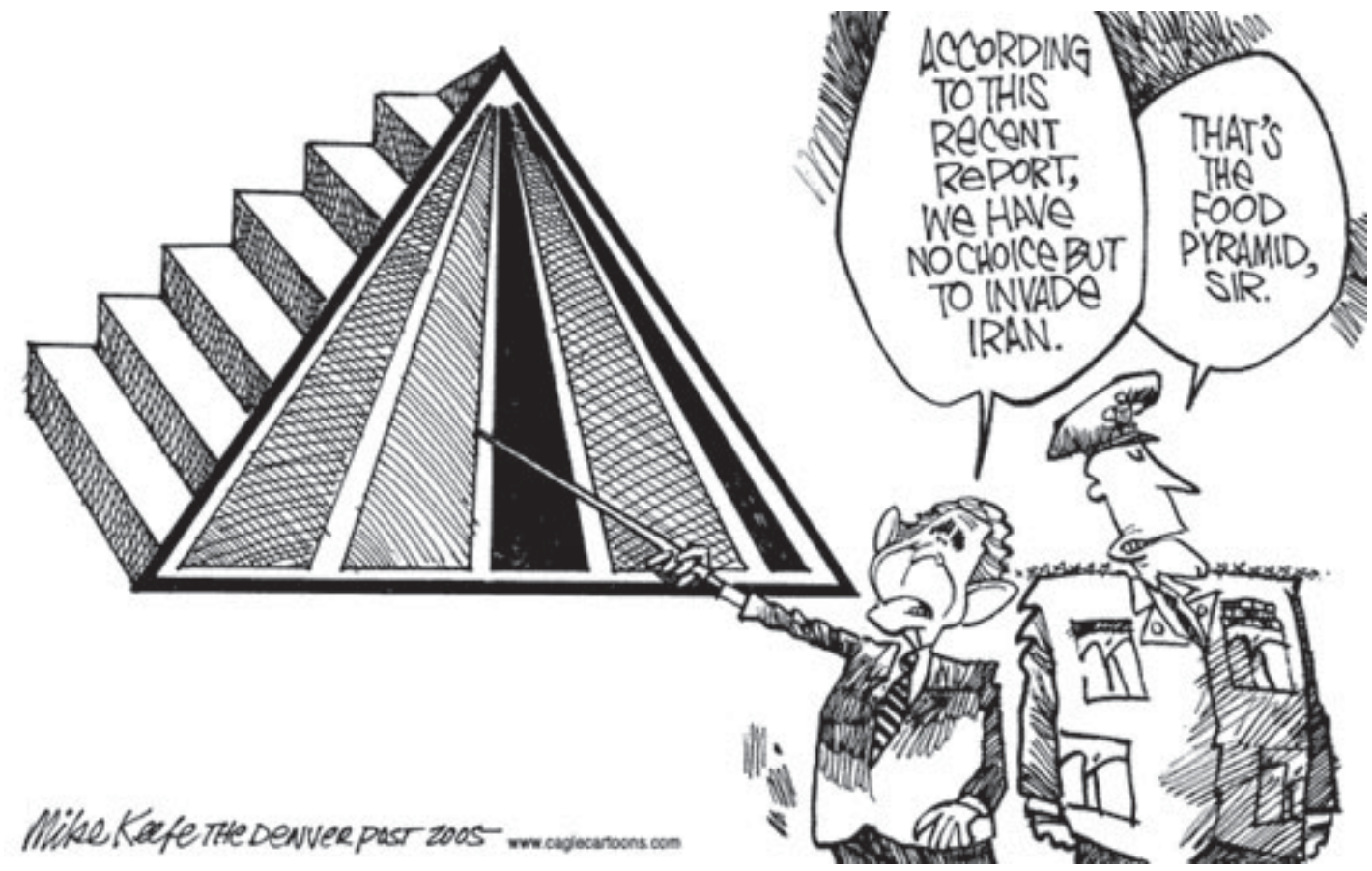
Iran has acknowledged that it is conducting uranium-enrichment activities, which is allowed under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The United States likes to tell other countries that they must follow the NPT and even go beyond its requirements, while acting as though the agreement doesn't apply to us well. If the Bush administration was genuinely concerned about nuclear weapons it would take steps to follow the treaty obligations by starting the process of disarmament, and ending the funding of new nuclear weapon technology. We would cease our own uranium enrichment as well. (Vice President Cheney's home state of Wyoming leads the country in uranium production).

But the nuclear issue is a smokescreen. The Bush administration has its eyes on Iran because of the huge reserves of oil and natural gas that Iran possesses, and the fact that Iran is selling oil and gas to India and China, our primary competitors in the global struggle over energy. The Bush administration would ultimately like to achieve "regime change" in Iran to get a government more sympathetic to our foreign oil dependence.

While this outlook is bleak, we can prevent an attack on Iran if we organize, mobilize, and get the word out. No more war and no more excuses for war!

We can call our senators and congresspersons and ask them to investigate Bush's illegal plans for an attack on Iran. We can write letters to the editor of "mainstream" newspapers like the Olympian to let more people know. And we can work to stop the nomination of John Bolton for UN Ambassador. Bolton has already called for a "robust" military attack on Iran if it doesn't stop its uranium enrichment. Some analysts think Bolton was nominated for UN Ambassador precisely to enable a US attack on Iran.

We have the power to end war. Now is the time to act!


ACCORDING TO THIS RECENT REPORT, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INVADE IRAN.
THAT'S THE FOOD PYRAMID, SIR.
Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 2005
www.caglecartoons.com

Dear WIP:

Works In Progress is a rarity. It's presence in the Thurston County community has made a difference in its political discourse. It's hard to imagine how we would have been able to organize without it. The antiwar, labor, women's and GBLT movements have truly benefited from WIP's work and the commitment of its workers (from Pat, Sylvia, David and the original core to today's awesome volunteer staff). I wish that every town and city in the US had such a paper. God(or goddess) knows they could all use one. Like a sculptor working on a piece of granite, WIP has helped build a community among the South Sound's progressive community by chipping away at the power structure. Here's to another fifteen years!

Ron Jacobs

Works in Progress serves an invaluable role as the only media source in Thurston County dedicated to getting out information about local, national, and international issues from a "people-scale" perspective. During the 13 years that I have lived in Olympia, I have relied on WIP for important stories that would never be covered in the corporate press. WIP also serves as the historical record for the local peace and justice movement, by documenting events and campaigns like Support the Truth and 100,000 & Counting. I am really grateful to the volunteer team that cooperatively puts the paper together each month so that we have this consistent information source. Thank you, WIP — and happy birthday!

Alice Zillah

VICS PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

Celebrate 15 years

(continued from page one)

photo by Ken Dean

Pat Tassoni: the man who held it all together

The fifteen year anniversary of Works In Progress is the perfect time to renew the sense of mission and the collective sense of ownership, responsibility, and community collaboration that gave birth to this newspaper.

A sense of mission

Free and independent, all-volunteer-run community newspapers like WIP come about largely as a response to the colossal failures of the commercial media. But the core motivation for participating in independent media, and what seems to motivate most activism, is a belief in and a desire for democracy: more democracy, better democracy.

It's a belief that we get to participate in decisions that affect our lives. We get to say what kind of communities we want to live in and what kind of vision we have for the future of our country and the world as a whole. We the people – not the owners and "rulers" – *we* get to decide which set of principles will guide our decisions and serve as the foundation of public policy.

Media has an essential role in facilitating that process. The media in fact has an *obligation* to create public forums, to provide access to the full array of information and ideas we need as individuals, and collectively as citizens, to make good decisions.

But the media has failed us miserably in this regard. Corporations dominate nearly every facet of our lives, including government. The commercial media is very much an entrenched component of this state of affairs and is strongly disinclined to provide the kind of information or analysis that challenges the corporate-dominated status quo in any meaningful way. In this sense, the media is quite complicit in paving the destructive path we now find ourselves on as a people.

This is why grassroots alternatives to the dominant media are absolutely necessary if we are going to be able to affect positive change in our communities and in our world.

Every person is a reporter

Ralph Nader has said that every community should have a newspaper in which the articles are written by the readers. That's essentially what Works In Progress is.

The commercial media fosters passive media consumption. Independent media gives rise to something very different; information is presented in a manner intended to inspire active engagement with issues. We are informed not only *about* a situation but also about how we can affect change in that situation.

You not only have a right to speak, you might even conclude that you have a duty to speak – a civic duty to tell the story. And the rest of us not only have a right to hear your story, but as a community we have a responsibility to make sure you have a forum in which to tell it.

And the logical progression from there is when average citizens make the transition from being engaged *consumers* of media to getting involved in *producing* media by writing an article or in some other way.

At WIP, most of us do some writing. But for the most part, the collective members devote our energies to the huge amount of footwork that goes into to bringing the paper to press and distributing it each month. It's a community newspaper, so it's up to all of us in the community to provide the content. You've heard it before: "If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)"

If you have an important issue or story, especially if it's been shut out or misrepresented in the mainstream media, you not only have a *right* to speak, you might even conclude that you have a *duty* to speak – a civic duty to tell the story. And the rest of us not only have a right to hear your story, but as a community we have a responsibility to make sure you have a forum in which to tell it.

Submitting to WIP

We must always be mindful of WIP's mission to provide a forum which is as inclusive and accessible as possible, especially to those interests which are most often excluded or misrepresented in the mainstream. But WIP has limited resources, and every month we are faced with hard decisions regarding what gets printed and what does not.

Functioning as stewards of this resource, we do our best to facilitate from one month to the next, in collaboration with the readership, the production of the best possible progressive community newspaper that our resources, human and otherwise, will allow.

We have found that what constitutes "best" in terms of editorial decisions depends on an ever-changing array of variables as we review the submissions, measuring and weighing out our various priorities and guidelines. But it always comes down to one objective: taking what we've got to work with each month and assembling from that a paper which best serves the readership - as well as "best" can be defined.

We have not been able to devise specific, concrete guidelines for submissions. Yet, although we strongly encourage people of all writing skills and stations in life to submit work, there are certain rules-of-thumb to keep in mind: 1) Schedule plenty of time for editing and tweaking your work well in advance of the submission deadline, which is always printed on page two; 2) Keep articles as focused and concise as possible. We do print longer articles if there are compelling reasons, but please try to be as thrifty with the page inches as possible; 3) Keep in mind that locally generated articles addressing issues of local interest have a high degree of priority; 4) Strive for "readability" and use a format that "fits" with WIP; these are hard concepts to define, but they come up a lot as we review submissions.

We'll do our best to work with you. If you contact us well in advance of the deadline, we might even be able to hook you up with someone who can help craft or edit your piece. Photos and other graphics are always appreciated as well.

Time for renewal:
An invitation to participate

Works In Progress is now at another crossroads. As previously stated, there are way too few of us doing way too much work and the situation cannot be sustained for much longer. Once again, we must rally the community to bring more energy into this important grassroots media project.

If you would like to see this newspaper continue to serve our community as it has for the past fifteen years, fear not. There are a great variety of ways in which you can help to assure that WIP not only survives but continues to evolve and *thrive* like never before.

Contribute financially

One thing you can do right this very minute is turn to page two for information on how to buy a subscription or simply donate money.

The entire process of producing and distributing WIP is all-volunteer. No one makes a dime - with one exception: the people we pay to print it for us. We pay several hundred dollars per month for printing (and other minor expenses such as our P.O. Box, email account, paper supplies, etc.).

These costs are met only in part by advertisements. We depend on the readership to contribute as well, through subscriptions, donations and the occasional fundraiser. *(See page 8 for information about a WIP fundraiser auction item: time in a beautiful cabin on the Skykomish River in Index.)*

Join the WIPworker collective

There are many opportunities to directly contribute your time and your wonderful human energy to WIP. The following is a list (in order of urgency) of work categories that currently need your help. If you see something that interests you, contact us at wip@zhonka.net or 956-1136:

- Ad sales
- Fundraising/ event planning
- Distribution
- Editing/ proofreading

photo by Luanne Hicks

Sylvia Smith: an original WIPster and ongoing creator of the much-loved monthly calendar of historical events on page three of every WIP (and who, by special request, designed this issue's center spread).

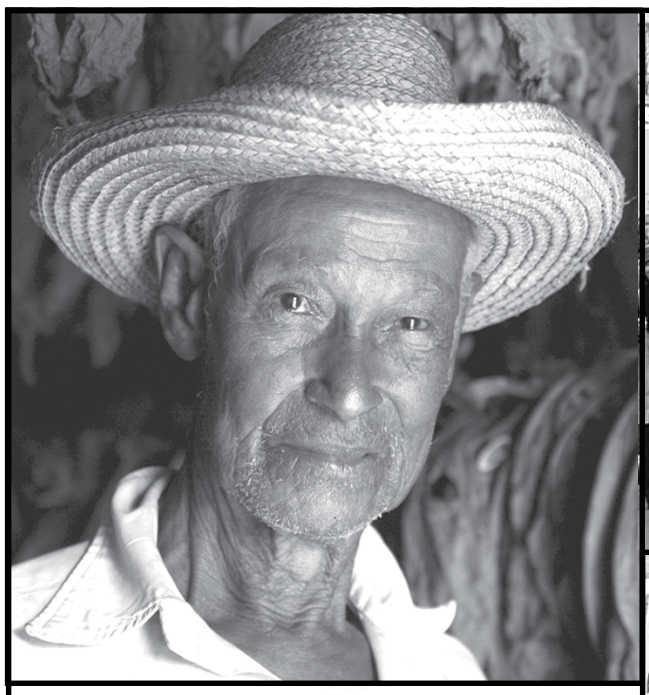
Celebrate this milestone!

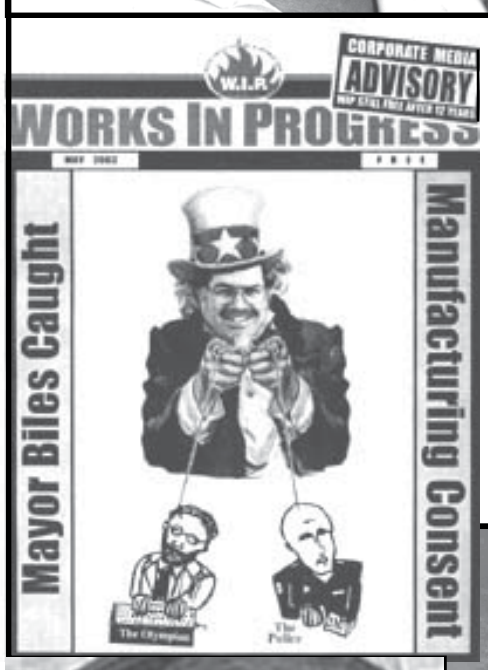
We consider this to be our *Anniversary Year* and, with summer around the corner, you will soon see announcements for celebratory and fundraising WIP events.

Very few communities are either fortunate or resourceful enough to have a newspaper like Works In Progress. Like so many of Olympia's amazing and unique institutions, WIP is a reflection of who we are: citizens actively endeavoring to create a better world. A fifteen year run is truly cause for celebration.

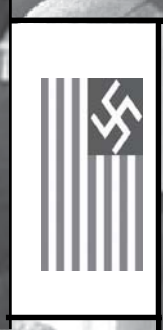
Mixx 96 fm
KXXO
"Soft Rock for the Great Northwest"
Rockway-Leland Bldg. • Downtown Olympia

WIP through the



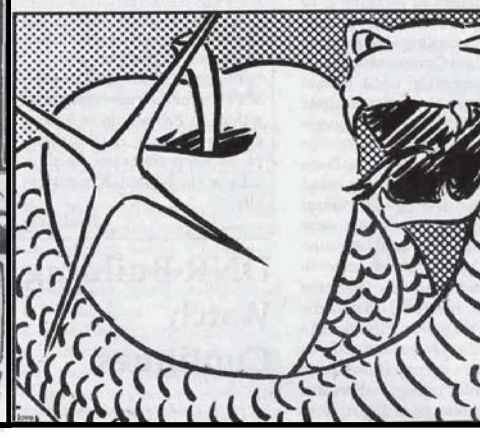


We are the ones we've been waiting for...



Light it up!

Pesticides Threaten Washington Farm Workers



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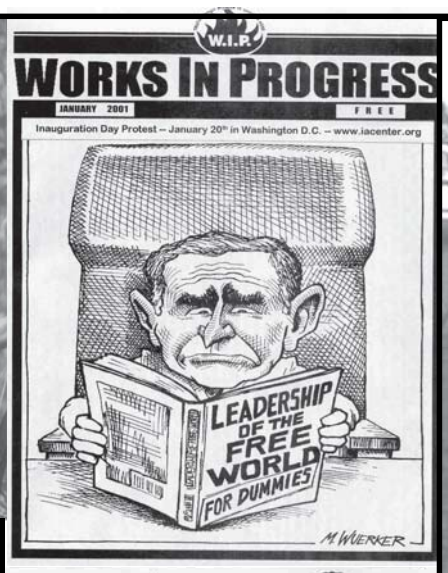

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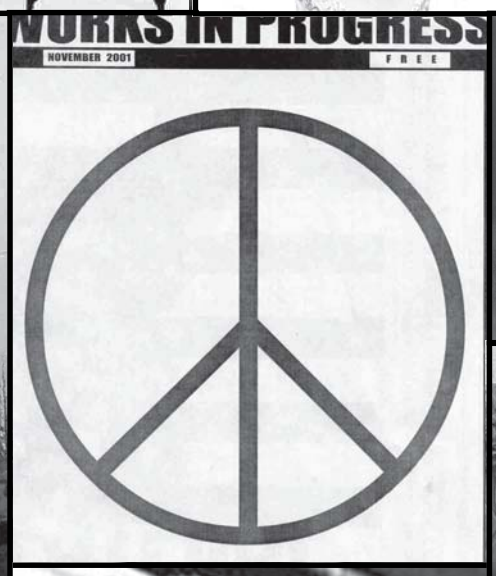
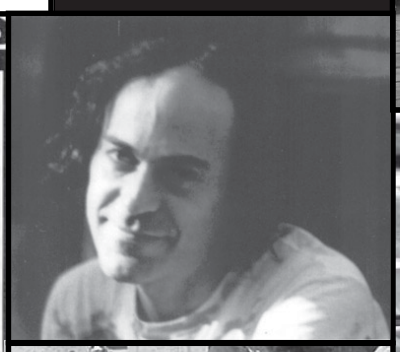
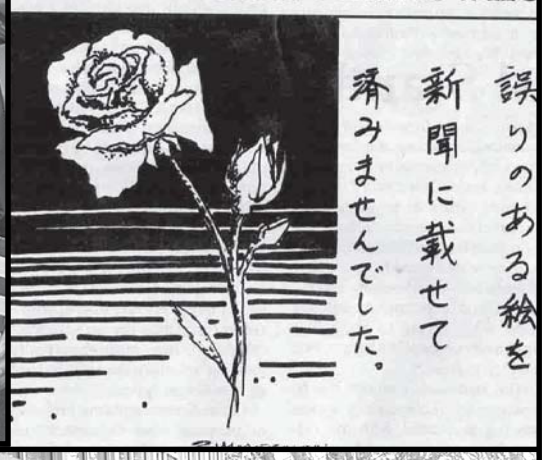
Miller/LOTT Debacle

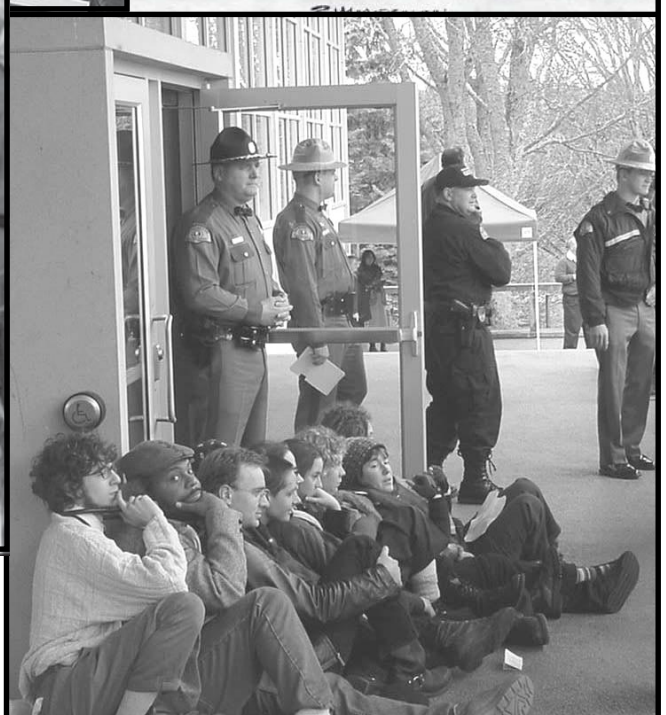




W.I.P. Cartoon Draws Fire



Free Trade:
Free Lunch For Corporations



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Burning Professors

Resurrection of a Witchhunt

by Phil Gasper

There's been a whole series of attacks on left-wing academics across the whole country. The most prominent ones are the Middle Eastern Studies department at Columbia University in New York, which was attacked in a film made by a pro-Zionist group; Ward Churchill at the University of Colorado, who is being pilloried for his article written just after September 11; and other cases of harassment of left-wing or progressive faculty members.

MUST BE THAT ACADEMIC BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE PROFESSOR MUST HAVE EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS.
DOESN'T THIS SEEM STRANGELY FAMILIAR?
PLANTE
THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES 2-FEB-2005

Across the country, you've got a move backed by David Horowitz—a former 1960s radical who has made the transition to the far right—backing a so-called academic "bill of rights," which is coming up for discussion in legislatures across the country, and may pass, to create "balance" in academia.

What they mean by balance is what Fox News means by balance. It's a way of trying to enforce the most extreme views into the classroom. In Florida, they're talking about giving equal time to creationism and intelligent design in biology classes, at the university level. Because they've lost the battle of ideas in lots of areas, they're trying to insert right-wing ideas by legal fiat.

The right controls most institutions in the U.S. They control the political institutions, the federal government, the judiciary, most of the media. Universities are one of the few places where you get at least a small opening for a different point of view.

Its not as if the universities are a radical hotbed—they're not. In fact, there's immense corporate influence on universities. But on many campuses, you'll still find people willing to put forward an alternative point of view or promote critical thinking about what's going on in this country. This is too much for the right to swallow. There's an attempt to intimidate not just these individuals, but to change the whole climate on campuses so that people will think twice before raising critical views.

There are a lot of parallels with the 1950s. Then, the enemy was communism and anyone critical of right-wing policies was branded communist. Now, the enemy is terrorism, so anyone who criticizes what the U.S. is doing in its foreign or domestic policy is attacked as pro-terrorist. I don't think we're yet on the scale of the 1950s, but that's where they want to get us to.

I think that one of the first major attacks was on Middle Eastern scholars. They're the ones who are most vulnerable. That follows an attack on Arabs, Arab Americans and Muslims, who have had their civil liberties basically obliterated. These are the people they'll start going after. The whole strategy here is to intimidate anybody who raises critical questions.

That's why it's so important to defend the people who have been attacked, no matter whether or not one agrees with the particular views they happen to hold. It's not so much what they've said or done as individuals—it's the fact that they represent some sort of critical voice that has a different view about policy in the Middle East or what the U.S. is doing at home,

Instead of exposing these attacks as politically motivated and part of a broader pattern, what the universities have tended to do is treat the criticism seriously. It gives credence to the idea that these are serious charges, rather than political harassment.

In both the cases of Churchill and Joseph Massad and the others at Columbia, these are attacks that were orchestrated first in the right-wing media. What's so disappointing about it is the fact that that the administration at the universities where they teach caved in to these attacks. In both cases, there have been official inquiries into the charges made against them. You would think that the place where the First Amendment ought to be defended most strongly would be a university campus—and yet Churchill was investigated for writing an article three years ago.

Instead of exposing these attacks as politically motivated and part of a broader pattern, what the universities have tended to do is treat the criticism seriously. It gives credence to the idea that these are serious charges, rather than political harassment.

But there has been enormous response by faculty across the country to defend the people being criticized. At Columbia, the defense campaign has been very important because it helped galvanize some opposition to these attacks. And at Colorado University, about 400 faculty members from around the country signed a statement which appeared in the newspapers on campus and in Boulder—and that is sparking an ongoing effort to respond not just to these specific attacks, but to the whole climate of right-wing intimidation.

Phil Gasper is a member of Professors for Peace and the International Socialist Organization. A professor of philosophy at Notre Dame de Namur University in California and a contributor to the Socialist Worker.

Works In Progress Fundraiser Auction:

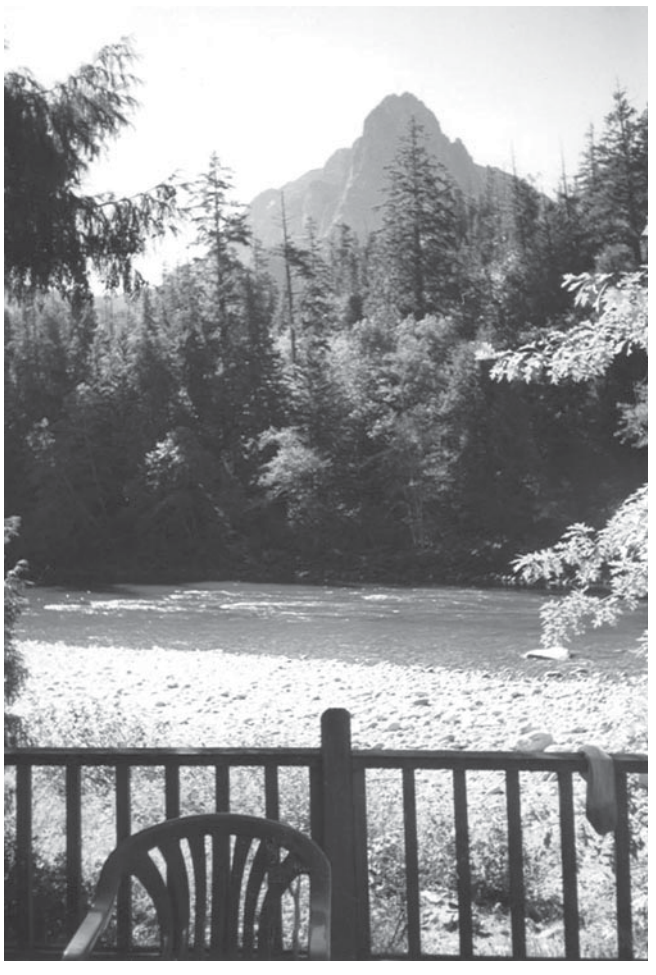
Riverfront Vacation Cabin

A local WIP supporter has generously donated - for auction - two separate time packages in this charming cabin on the Skykomish River near Index, WA. A two-hour drive from Olympia, the cabin features a stunning view of mile-high Mt. Index and Mt. Persis across the river. Quiet, comfortable and private, with a woodstove and full modern kitchen. Two queen beds, VCR and CD player. Next to the proposed Sky Wilderness Area, only 10 miles from Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Great fishing and river rafting.

Package 1: Weekend (Fri-Sun) Minimum bid $200
Package 2: Seven days - Minimum bid $400

This is a silent, sealed-bid auction. Send bids and contact info to **wip@zhonka.net**. *Be sure to indicate which package you are bidding on.* The bidding will end at midnight on Wenesday, June 1, 2005. At that time, the highest bids will win the respective packages. The winners will be notified on the following day and arrangements will be made to coordinate with the owners for time slots - up to a period of one year - subject to availability.

What better way to struggle for the cause than by relaxing at a serene mountain cabin?



People the world over call on Caterpillar to stop the sale of their bulldozers to the Israeli military

by Serene Becker

On April 13th demonstrations were held in over 30 cities worldwide for the International Day of Action Against Caterpillar. These actions brought attention to Caterpillar's complicity in systematic human rights abuses in the occupied Palestinian territories and demanding an end to their continued violations of international law.

Caterpillar sells bulldozers to the Israeli military through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales Program. State-owned Israel Military Industries (IMI) then armors the bulldozers in Israel. Caterpillar has come under increasing pressure as they continue to do business with the Israeli military after being put "on notice" by numerous international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the United Nations for their complicity in violating international law, such as the Forth Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions of 1907.

Their continued sale of bulldozers also breaches the company's own Code of Worldwide Business Conduct. Caterpillar states, "Wherever we conduct business or invest our resources around the world, we know that our commitment to financial success must also take into account social, economic, political, and environmental priorities. We believe that our success should also contribute to the quality of life and the prosperity of communities where we work and live." Clearly they are not living up to there own standards.

The D9, D10, and D11 bulldozers, weighing roughly sixty-four tons with armored plates, are used in the systematic destruction of Palestinian society. Since the beginning of Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in 1967, Israel has destroyed over 7,000 buildings, leaving 50,000 men, women and children homeless. Over 385,000 olive trees have been uprooted along with destruction of greenhouses and farmland. Caterpillar's bulldozers have been used throughout this process.

For the past three years this international campaign has been gaining momentum. This marks the second year that Caterpillar shareholders from the organization Jewish Voice for Peace and four Roman Catholic orders of nuns introduced a resolution requesting Caterpillar review their sales of bulldozers to the Israeli army.

On April 13th shareholders were obligated to discuss Caterpillar's involvement in the illegal Israeli occupation. Although the resolution received 3% of the vote, not enough support to introduce it again next year, Caterpillar has been forced to acknowledge the role their products play in the illegal occupation of Palestine. Not only have shareholders been made aware of this issue but stockholders as well are beginning to recognize the danger of being associated with the company's participation in human rights violations; Caterpillar's stock fell 3% on April 13th.

While a group of around150 protesters took to the streets outside the shareholder meeting in Chicago, Liat Weingart of Jewish Voice for Peace and Mary Ann McGivern of the Sisters of Loretto brought forth the resolution asking Caterpillar to review its sale of bulldozers to the Israeli military. The meeting was largely dominated by this discussion. In her speech, Weingart said "We are concerned about how these events may have an affect on shareholder value. Caterpillar has become the target of negative publicity, protests and boycotts. In the Arab world, the name Caterpillar has become synonymous with the destruction of homes, with destroying infrastructure rather than building it."

All over the world people came together calling on Caterpillar to stop the sale of their bulldozers to the Israeli military. In Britain people held demonstrations outside British plants and "flashmobbed" the company's shops. Protesters asked to try on Caterpillar brand shoes then sat reading a report that detailed the company's complicity in Israeli human rights abuses.

Demonstrations were held in Palestine as well. In the West Bank town of Bil'in 15 internationals, 6 Israelis and 50 Palestinians gathered at a mosque with placards and posters denouncing Caterpillar and the Annexation Wall. The protestors then went to the construction site of the Wall to stop construction and to highlight Caterpillar's participation in war crimes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

In our own community over 100 people came to Tukwila to demonstrate outside of NC Machinery, the largest Caterpillar distributor in Washington State. Members of the Green Party, Veterans for Peace, Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project, Code Pink, Olympia Friends Meeting, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Vancouver (WA) for Peace, the Palestinian Solidarity Movement/Seattle, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and other groups participated.

This marks the second year that Caterpillar shareholders from the organization Jewish Voice for Peace and four Roman Catholic orders of nuns introduced a resolution requesting Caterpillar review their sales of bulldozers to the Israeli army.

The demonstration was held after company representatives did not respond to a letter and refused a meeting with members of the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project. The letter called on Mr. John Harnish, CEO of NC Machinery to support the requests made by 43 local, national and international organizations that Mr. Harnish support a resolution to review Caterpillar's sales of bulldozers to the Israeli military, back the demand that those sales be stopped, and make a public statement "of concern" about the use of Caterpillar bulldozers "to commit systematic human rights violations."

On April 13th, NC Machinery continued their refusal to meet with us. Four people intended to enter the office and request a meeting, but as we arrived we were told by the police that NC Machinery had asked for us to be arrested if we stepped foot on their property. Throughout the hour and a half long demonstration, a professional cameraman, hired by NC Machinery videotaped the entire event from a large crane platform lifted above the demonstration.

Lin Nelson, Pete Bohmer, both faculty at the Evergreen State College, and Phan Nguyen, International Solidarity Movement activist, spoke about the destruction done to homes, property, and lives by Caterpillar bulldozers and the company's refusal to acknowledge their complicity in human right violations. Jim Page, singer/songwriter and activist played songs about Palestine and Rachel Corrie, our friend and fellow activist killed by a D9 Caterpillar bulldozer in Rafah, Gaza on March 16th 2003.

People held large banners, signs and posters showing the destruction done with Caterpillar bulldozers. An art installation representing a demolished Palestinian home was set-up directly in front of a large bulldozer. Although we were unable to meet with Mr. Harnish: NC Machinery employees and all those who passed by saw our call for Caterpillar to stop sales to the Israeli military.

This campaign is not over. Caterpillar is aware of the mounting pressure to adhere to their corporate code of conduct, international law, and human rights. The actions on April 13th are only a part of an ongoing campaign to hold Caterpillar responsible for its continued sales of bulldozers to the Israeli military that are knowingly used to break international law and destroy Palestinian's livelihood.

Locally, we will continue to put pressure on Caterpillar, Inc. This campaign is not a once-a-year protest. It is a part of creating awareness to the injustice taking place in the Middle East. We must continue to demand justice and speak out for those whose voices are not heard in the United States. We must not allow corporations to profit from illegal and immoral activity; they must be held responsible for their actions. We cannot allow atrocities to be committed in our names. As citizens of the US we must recognize the role that the US government and US corporations play throughout the world. By pressuring Caterpillar to acknowledge and take responsibility for their actions we send a clear message that corporations cannot act illegally without consequences. This campaign gives us the opportunity to educate people in the US about the realities of this conflict, highlight the US role, and call for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project is greatly inspired by the support and energy that people from this community have brought to this international campaign. Through our efforts we have been successful in highlighting the importance of this issues within our own community and more broadly. As a relatively new organization, we feel blessed to have broad range of support within this community.

both photos by Robert Torre

Over 100 people gathered outside NC Machinery in Tukwilla , Washington to pressure the Harnish Group to use their influence to stop Caterpillar from contributing to human rights abuses in the Occupied Territories.

Northwest tribe clashes with pro-development officials in battle to preserve Native history

by Ann Rogers and Lois Danks

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the treaty negotiated by Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens and Northwest Indian tribes. The tribes traded 64 million acres of land for the right to fish and keep reservation lands.

Does that mean relations between whites and Indians have mellowed into mutual respect? Yes and no. When disputes over sovereignty and Native rights arise, the public generally responds 4-to-1 in favor of Indians. But those who stand to profit by stealing Native resources fight sovereignty with all the power they can muster.

The past uncovered. One such battle is unfolding right now on the Washington state peninsula, in Port Angeles. There, the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe is working to preserve an ancestral burial ground located on waterfront property that elected officials and businesses want to develop.

The tribe's fight began last year when the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) uncovered Tse-whit-zen, a centuries-old community that was destroyed in the 1920s. WSDOT made the discovery while crews were excavating the property in preparation for a bridge repair. The Lower Elwha Klallams — whose forebears lived there for 2,700 years — petitioned WSDOT to stop their work after crews began digging up several hundred ancestral remains and an entire village.

In December 2004, the agency complied, citing the significance of the site and the delay and cost of continuing the project. Tribal workers hired by WSDOT had already unearthed thousands of artifacts, including a longhouse structure, cooking hearths and tools for hunting. The agency has a policy of consulting tribes in such sensitive cases. Moreover, the Native Historic Preservation Act protects major indigenous burial grounds such as this site.

The discovery was not a complete surprise to anyone, including city officials. While the exact location of Tse-whit-zen was unknown, a study by anthropologists had shown it to be somewhere near the waterfront property that Port Angeles officials sold to WSDOT. Consequently, the tribe had urged caution in excavating the area.

WSDOT scheduled negotiations to transfer control of the property to the tribe for January 2005. But city officials and business groups quickly intervened to thwart a resolution.

Politicians sabotage talks. From the get-go, elected tribal chairwoman Frances G. Charles has asserted her people's sovereign rights, saying, "We need to make this a government to government discussion." To that end, she urged WSDOT to find a new site for its bridge repair, and the agency began considering three other locations for its project.

But business interests and their allies in local government have launched a vicious attack on the tribe. They hope to back the Klallams down from claiming what is rightfully theirs, and hence clear the way for selling and developing waterfront property. Port Angeles Mayor Richard Headrick and city council members are using personal attacks and playing to stereotypes to whip up anti-Indian sentiment, especially against Frances Charles.

At a recent breakfast meeting of the Port Angeles Business Association, city officials publicly slandered the tribe as devious.

"As a result of its actions, the tribe also has cast the future of the city's entire waterfront into doubt," Headrick was quoted in the *Peninsula Daily News*. "Trust and respect must be earned. It is not Frances Charles' for the asking." He went on to say that Charles "cannot be trusted to honor any agreements."

Tim Smith, director of the city's economic development, accused Charles of creating a "risky" investment climate. In fact, the city is scapegoating the tribe to cover up officials' own very shady deal of selling land they knew might contain an ancient Native village.

Meanwhile, Councilman Larry Williams urged fellow realtors in an email to "draw a line in the sand."

Despite the city's bully tactics, the tribe's women leaders are firm in their declaration that all construction must stop.

"We will not allow further desecration of our ancestors," Native activist Monica Charles said. "This is not about jobs or money. It is about simple human dignity."

Tribal chair Charles has offered to sit down with city leaders to explain her tribe's position. She is also planning a public presentation in May to educate people about Native history, treaty rights, and sovereignty.

For now, the tribe has managed to stop all work at Tse-whit-zen. And they are backed by supporters in the community who believe land can have value for reasons other than generating profits for investors. What happens next will probably be a long, hard-fought battle on both sides.

The Lower Elwha Klallam tribe is working to preserve an ancestral burial ground located on waterfront property that elected officials and businesses want to develop. ...

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Port Angeles: tip of the iceberg. Their conflict will be closely watched. Other sacred and historic sites are being discovered elsewhere around the region where construction is planned.

Near Seattle, a site for new pillars for the SR520 bridge rests on a Duwamish tribal burial ground.

Along the Columbia River, Indian artifacts were found during preparation of a project to mark the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. Discovery of the artifacts, probably related to the Chinook tribe, has at least temporarily interrupted construction.

But cases like these don't have to end in antagonism. The state's parks department recently negotiated return of Old Man State Park to the Suquamish tribe. In four public meetings held by the agency, most neighbors supported return of the park to the tribe, despite racist objections by a few.

Right now, public support for the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe could help win a similarly positive outcome. To sign a petition for the tribe, go to www.petitiononline.com/village/petition.html.

Ann Rogers is a Chippewa and Native rights activist in Seattle; Lois Danks is Radical Women's organizer in Port Angeles. Both can be reached at FSnews@mindspring.com

This article originally appeared in the Freedom Socialist *newspaper.*

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Coming sooner than you think

The Economic Tsunami

by Mike Whitney

"If the world's central bankers accumulate fewer dollars, the result would be an unrelenting American need to borrow in the face of an ever weaker dollar - a recipe for higher interest rates and higher prices. The economic repercussions could unfold gradually, resulting in a long, slow decline in living standards. Or there could be a quick unraveling, with the hallmarks of an uncontrolled fiscal crisis."

New York Times editorial 4-2-05

It seems that there are a growing number of people who believe as I do, that the economic tsunami planned by the Bush administration is probably only months away. In just 5 short years the national debt has increased by nearly 3 trillion dollars while the dollar has continued its predictable decline. The dollar has fallen a whopping 38% since Bush took office, due largely to the massive $450 billion per year tax cuts. At the same time, numerous laws have been passed (Patriot Act, Intelligence Reform Bill, Homeland Security Bill, National ID, Passport requirements etc) anticipating the need for greater repression when the economy takes its inevitable nosedive. Regrettably, that nosedive looks to be coming sooner rather than later.

The administration is currently putting as much pressure as possible on OPEC to ratchet up the flow of oil another 1 million barrels per day (well over capacity) to settle down nervous markets and buy time for the planned bombing of Iran in June. Like Fed Chief Alan Greenspan's artificially low interest rates, the manipulation of oil production is a way of concealing how dire the situation really is. Rising prices at the pump signal an upcoming recession, (depression?) so the administration is pulling out all the stops to meet the short term demand and maintain the illusion that things are still okay. (Bush would rather avoid massive popular unrest until his battle-plans for Iran are carried out)

But, of course, things are not okay. The country has been intentionally plundered and will eventually wind up in the hands of its creditors as Bush and his lieutenants planned from the very beginning. Those who don't believe this should note the methodical way that the deficits have been produced at (around) $450 billion per year; a systematic and orderly siphoning off of the nation's future. The value of the dollar and the increasing national debt follow exactly the same (deliberate) downward trajectory.

This same Ponzi scheme has been carried out repeatedly by the IMF and World Bank throughout the world; Argentina being the last dramatic illustration. (Argentina's economic collapse occurred when its trade deficit was running at 4%; right now ours is at an unprecedented 6%.) Bankruptcy is a fairly straight forward way of delivering valuable public assets and resources to collaborative industries, and of annihilating national sovereignty. After a nation is successfully driven to destitution, public policy decisions are made by creditors and not by representatives of the people. (Enter, Paul Wolfowitz)

Did Americans really believe they could avoid a similar fate?

If so, they'd better forget about it, because the hammer is about to come down big-time, and the collateral damage will be huge.

The Bush administration is mainly comprised of internationalists. That doesn't mean that they "hate America"; simply that they are committed to bringing America into line with the "new world order" and an economic regime that has been approved by corporate and financial elites alike. Their patriotism extends no further than the garish tri-colored flag on their lapel. The catastrophe that middle class Americans face is what these elites breezily refer to as "shock therapy"; a sudden jolt, followed by fundamental changes to the system. In the near future we can expect tax reform, fiscal discipline, deregulation, free capital flows, lowered tariffs, reduced public services, and privatization. In other words, a society entirely designed to service the needs of corporations.

There are a number of signs that the economy is close to meltdown-stage. Even with cheap energy, low interest rates and $450 billion in borrowed revenue pumped into the system each year, the economy is still barely treading water. This has a lot to due with the colossal shifting of wealth brought on by the tax cuts. Supply-side, trickle-down theories have been widely discredited and Bush's tax cuts have done nothing to stimulate the economy as promised. Now, with oil tilting towards $60 per barrel, the economic landscape is changing quickly, and shock-waves are already being felt throughout the country.

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The Iraq war has contributed considerably to our current dilemma. The conflict has taken nearly one million barrels of Iraqi oil per day off line.(The exact amount that the administration is trying to replace by pressuring OPEC) In other words, the astronomical prices at the pump are the direct result of Bush's war. The media has failed to report on the negative affects the war has had on oil production, just as they have obscured the incredibly successful insurgent strategy of destroying pipelines. This isn't a storyline that plays well to the American public, who expected that Iraq would be paying for its own reconstruction by now. Instead, the resistance is striking back at the empire's Achilles heel (America's need for massive amounts of cheap oil) and its having a damaging affect on the US economy.

Just as the economy cannot float along with sharp increases in oil prices, so too, Bush's profligate deficits threaten the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency. This is much more serious than a simple decline in the value of the dollar. If the major oil producers convert from the dollar to the euro, the American economy will sink almost overnight. If oil is traded in euros then central banks around the world would be compelled to follow and America will be required to pay off its enormous $8 trillion debt. That, of course, would be doomsday for the American economy. But, a recent report indicates that two-thirds of the world's 65 central banks have already "begun to move from dollars to euros." The Bush plan to savage the dollar has been telegraphed around the world and, as the New York Times says, "the greenback has nowhere to go but down". There's only one thing that the administration can do to ensure that energy dealers keep trading in dollars.control the flow of oil. That means that an attack on Iran is nearly a certainty.

The difficulties facing both the dollar and the economy are not insurmountable. The world has been more than willing to compensate for America's wasteful spending as long as America shows itself to be a responsible steward of the global economy. However, the administration's military and economic recklessness suggests that some of the key players on the world stage (particularly Russia, Iran, Venezuela, Germany, France, China, Brazil) are collaborating on an alternate plan; a contingency plan. If Iran is bombed in an unprovoked act of aggression, we will certainly see this plan activated. The most likely scenario would be a quick switch to the euro that would have grave implications for the American economy. (Russia has already indicated that it will do this) For Iran, an attack would justify arming disparate terrorist organizations with the weaponry they need to attack American and Israeli interests wherever they may be. In any event, an unprovoked attack will dispel the remaining illusions about Bush's war against terror and confirm to everyone that we are engaged in a new world war; a conflict for global domination.

The neoliberal chickens have come home to roost. America has become the latest staging ground for the eccentric economic policies of the Washington Consensus. The towering national debt coupled with the staggering trade deficits have put the nation on a precipice and a seismic shift in the fortunes of middle-class Americans is looking more likely all the time. The New York Times summarized the country's prospects like this:

"The economic repercussions could unfold gradually, resulting in a long, slow decline in living standards. Or there could be a quick unraveling, with the hallmarks of an uncontrolled fiscal crisis."

"An uncontrolled fiscal crisis"... America's future under George Bush. We are facing years of collective struggle ahead. If there's a quick fix, I have no idea what it might be.

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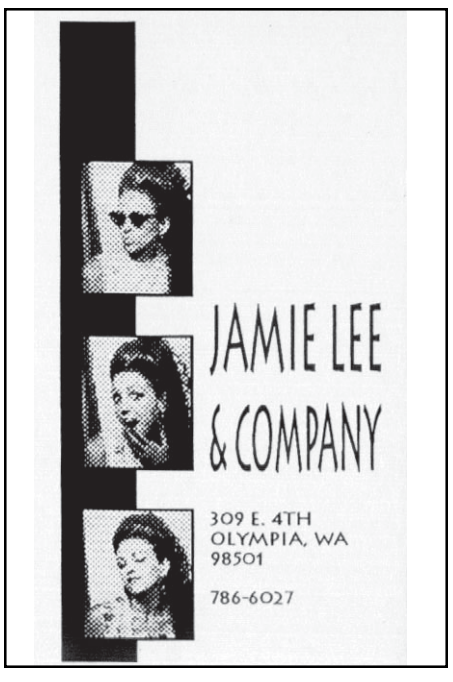

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15 Year Anniversary Issue

In January 1991, 2000 people gathered at Sylvester Park to demonstrate against the Gulf War. They marched to the capitol steps and demanded to speak with state representatives. When this demand was denied, demonstrators decided to occupy the House Chambers. WIP was there and published this exclusive photo. For 15 years, any time local citizens have engaged in their duty to resist corrupt, oppressive or hegemonic policies, WIP has consistently been the media source most likely to fairly report their concerns and the circumstances leading to their actions. Let's keep that tradition alive.

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